



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 3, 2008

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Excellent week for Field Work: Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included picking fruit, cutting and baling hay and straw, mowing weeds, as well as harvesting oats and sweet corn.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 3, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 3	<i>Percent</i> 29	<i>Percent</i> 56	<i>Percent</i> 12

Crops: The corn condition was similar to the previous week's condition. Seventy-three percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition, compared to the previous week's 75%. Six percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is 80% tasseled, with 16% at the dough stage. The soybean condition improved, as 80 percent was rated as good and excellent. Four percent of the soybeans were rated as poor or very poor. Oat condition improved, with 86 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition compared to the previous week's 80 percent. Ninety-six percent of the oats are turning yellow, which is 3 points below this time last year, and 6 points above average. Seventy-two percent of the oats are now ripe, compared to last year's 84 percent, and the average of 66 percent. The oat harvest continued, with 40 percent harvested, which is 5 points behind last year and 4 points above average. The potato harvest is estimated to be 8% complete. The second cutting of alfalfa is 92 percent complete, which is 6 points behind last year, and 4 points above the average. Alfalfa third cutting continued and is 44% completed, which is 1 point behind last year, and 7 points above average. The second cutting of timothy clover is 50% completed, compared with last year's 47% and the average of 41%. The quality of hay improved and is at 69 percent good or excellent, with 9 percent rated as poor or very poor. Peaches are in good condition, as 99 percent are rated as good or excellent. The peach harvest is 30 percent completed, compared with 31 percent last year, and a 37 percent average. The apple condition is 83 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest shows to be 10% complete, compared with last year's 15% and the average of 15%

Livestock: Pasture conditions are similar to last week. Forty-eight percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is up 1 point from last week. Twenty-one percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 14. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 4% very poor, 17% poor, 31% fair, 41% good, and 7% excellent.

U.S. as of July 27, 2008: On July 23, Dolly made landfall on South Padre Island, TX as a low-end Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 100 m.p.h. High winds associated with the hurricane were confined to Deep South Texas, where agricultural effects included damage to citrus, sugarcane, unharvested sorghum, and openboll cotton. Elsewhere across the South, scattered showers bypassed some areas but provided local relief to drought-stressed pastures and rain-fed summer crops. Farther north, mild, mostly dry weather in the Great Lakes region contrasted with a band of locally heavy rain arcing across the southern and western Corn Belt. Rain also

pounded the Northeast, where most locations in a broad region stretching from eastern New York to Massachusetts and southern Maine netted at least 4 inches of rain. Meanwhile, hot, dry weather prevailed on the southern Plains, where temperatures routinely reached or exceeded 100 degrees F. In contrast, showers dotted the central and northern Plains. In the West, mostly dry weather in the Pacific Coast States maintained stress on some rangeland, pastures, and spring sown small grains. Farther inland, isolated showers dampened parts of the interior Northwest, while locally heavy monsoon showers continued in the Four Corners States. Early in the week, hot weather across the South contrasted with cool conditions in the Northwest. During the mid- to late-week period, heat shifted to the Plains and Intermountain West, while cool weather lingered in the Northwest. Toward week's end, heat returned to the South. Heavy rain swept into the Northeast on July 22-23. Selected daily-record totals for July 23 reached 3.00 inches in Williamsport, PA, and 2.42 inches in Baltimore, MD. Meanwhile in the Southwest, monsoon showers resulted in a daily-record sum (0.74 inch on July 20) in Yuma, AZ.

Corn: Acreage at or beyond silking reached 59 percent, 28 points behind last year and 22 points behind the 5-year average. One-fourth of the crop reached the silking stage during the week. All States were delayed in the Corn Belt, except Michigan, and elsewhere, delays continued except in Colorado, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Corn acreage was 7 percent at or beyond the dough stage, 15 points behind last year and 12 points behind the normal pace. Condition of the corn crop was 66 percent good to excellent, increasing 1 point from a week ago.

Soybeans: Sixty-two percent of the soybean acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage, 20 points behind last year and 17 points behind normal. Soybean producing areas remained dry throughout the week, except in southern Iowa and northeastern Missouri, where an unwelcomed plethora of rain, reaching 11 to 12 inches, fell in isolated areas. All States lagged the normal pace except Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, and North Carolina. Pod-setting occurred in 21 percent of the Nation's soybean fields, 4 points behind last year and 17 points behind normal. Pod-setting was delayed across all States except Michigan and North Carolina. Condition of the crop was rated 62 percent good to excellent, increasing 1 point from last week.

Winter Wheat: Seventy-nine percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested, 8 points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. The majority of the crop was harvested in most States, except Idaho, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington. In Montana and South Dakota, harvest progress was 35 and 61 points behind normal, respectively.

Small Grains: Producers had reaped 18 percent of the oat crop, 23 points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was behind the average pace in all States, except in Pennsylvania, where producers were reaping their crop 1 point ahead of the average, and in Texas, where harvest was complete, 1 point ahead of average. Oat condition declined 5 points from the previous week to 57 percent good to excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 3, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 3, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	83	63	74	3	0.15	1	13.72	-0.85	54	1,795	283	2,933
Franklin	85	57	71	2	1.49	2	17.91	0.65	64	1,567	130	2,704
Meadville	83	59	71	3	0.43	3	15.62	-0.96	56	1,569	255	2,705
Mercer	85	57	71	2	0.58	2	16.37	0.07	66	1,528	103	2,672
Springboro	84	56	70	-2	1.02	3	21.24	6.61	61	1,444	-69	2,553
Warren	84	58	70	1	0.99	3	18.11	1.17	68	1,467	68	2,572
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	50	66	1	0.22	3	15.78	-1.41	71	1,147	126	2,176
Emporium	86	54	70	4	0.47	3	13.17	-4.36	66	1,526	384	2,655
Kane	81	51	66	1	0.15	2	15.84	-1.40	62	1,131	124	2,160
Laporte	84	57	69	-1	0.20	3	19.22	3.16	68	1,372	-67	2,451
Lock Haven	87	56	73	3	0.31	3	13.86	-1.85	59	1,735	210	2,900
Port Allegany	82	52	68	3	0.45	3	12.52	-3.89	64	1,250	116	2,311
Renovo	86	56	72	2	0.06	1	13.81	-1.90	52	1,700	175	2,856
Ridgway	82	51	67	0	0.11	1	14.43	-3.10	62	1,246	104	2,321
Stevenson Dam	86	54	71	5	0.08	1	12.48	-5.05	57	1,536	394	2,660
Towanda	85	56	72	2	0.32	2	16.30	3.00	55	1,576	126	2,699
Wellsboro	81	53	67	2	1.06	3	14.52	1.06	64	1,252	173	2,312
Williamsport	88	57	74	2	0.14	2	15.70	-0.03	57	1,895	204	3,084
Northeast												
Hawley	85	52	69	1	0.43	2	12.60	-2.36	49	1,430	202	2,522
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	58	72	0	0.49	2	13.93	-0.81	56	1,758	150	2,900
Susquehanna	84	57	70	4	0.41	3	16.91	0.88	62	1,491	310	2,607
West Central												
Butler	85	56	71	1	0.97	2	13.54	-2.63	73	1,496	3	2,652
New Castle	90	58	73	3	0.78	1	14.15	-0.76	65	1,748	247	2,924
Slippery Rock	86	57	72	3	0.35	1	15.64	-0.15	59	1,525	172	2,702
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	56	73	2	0.10	2	14.22	-0.39	62	1,708	99	2,860
DuBois	81	55	69	0	0.79	2	15.53	-0.70	68	1,472	80	2,577
Lewistown	88	58	74	2	0.05	2	16.75	0.95	54	1,815	53	2,975
Middletown	90	61	78	2	0.60	2	15.73	0.45	48	2,147	156	3,351
Prince Gallitzi	86	53	70	2	0.17	2	15.68	-2.99	58	1,404	127	2,517
Selinsgrove	89	56	74	2	0.45	2	14.35	-1.37	50	1,785	136	2,944
State College	86	60	73	3	0.09	2	15.34	0.81	54	1,786	195	2,949
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	60	74	0	0.51	2	16.40	0.38	45	1,900	76	3,070
Lehighton	86	56	72	-3	0.75	2	13.76	-2.33	55	1,731	-26	2,886
Matamoras	87	56	71	-2	0.80	3	14.48	-2.25	55	1,540	-50	2,654
Mt_Pocono	80	52	68	2	0.37	3	14.41	-3.07	59	1,350	273	2,425
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	60	74	3	0.59	2	15.53	0.02	56	1,876	260	3,070
Derry	85	58	73	2	0.84	3	21.18	5.20	67	1,647	134	2,813
Myersdale	83	52	68	-3	3.04	3	22.19	4.52	65	1,228	-245	2,317
Mount Pleasant	84	56	71	4	1.11	4	20.11	2.29	63	1,617	277	2,796
Pittsburgh Intl	86	60	74	2	0.61	2	14.61	0.08	57	1,847	156	3,039
Connellsville	87	59	74	2	1.49	4	23.32	6.10	67	1,799	76	2,992
Waynesburg	86	57	72	1	0.63	3	21.64	5.77	57	1,617	55	2,797
South Central												
Biglerville	89	61	76	2	0.42	2	18.73	4.73	50	1,962	9	3,145
Everett	86	54	72	0	0.66	1	19.92	5.77	57	1,550	-33	2,692
Hanover	90	56	75	0	0.47	3	16.27	2.27	55	1,950	-3	3,128
Harrisburg_AP	89	60	77	1	0.01	1	13.08	-2.20	37	2,108	110	3,315
South Mountain	87	55	72	1	0.51	5	21.45	6.84	63	1,550	-52	2,680
York	88	56	74	0	2.54	2	20.36	4.82	54	2,008	62	3,207
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	61	76	3	0.68	3	19.56	3.83	51	1,988	251	3,178
Hamburg	90	59	76	4	0.41	2	12.03	-6.63	51	2,003	421	3,193
West_Chester	90	56	75	1	0.07	2	13.99	-3.50	43	1,934	1	3,111
Lancaster	86	58	74	-1	0.44	1	15.47	-0.82	48	1,921	94	3,104
Neshaminy Falls	89	60	75	2	0.00	0	15.81	-2.57	43	2,001	186	3,193
New Holland	89	60	76	2	0.27	3	16.85	0.56	47	2,038	211	3,228
Philadelphia	90	65	80	3	0.42	2	12.81	-2.98	43	2,381	284	3,606
Philadelphia NE	92	61	79	3	0.62	3	12.57	-3.22	48	2,467	370	3,695
Reading	90	59	76	3	1.76	3	12.23	-4.98	51	2,099	306	3,291
Valley Forge Na	89	60	75	-2	0.50	1	18.27	1.85	46	1,904	-142	3,102
Willow Grove	89	62	77	4	0.47	2	15.05	-3.33	52	2,126	311	3,330

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another week of hot and humid weather. Morning temperatures were in the 60's and daytime temps were 80-90's. On Wednesday evening, Upper Adams County had a small shower. On Saturday around lunchtime, York Springs area had a sprinkle of rain. Later in the evening a thunderstorm roared through the area. York Springs area received 1.5"; Heidlersburg 1.2", Hunterstown 0.5", Biglerville/Bendersville 0.2" and south of Gettysburg received 0.5". This rainfall was much needed because the corn was stressed from earlier hot days. More rainfall would be beneficial at this stage for all crops. A lot more corn is now in the tassel stage, but throughout the same field the stages may vary. Soybeans planted after wheat are growing and emerging. Hay continues to be made. Wheat harvest is completed with good yields being reported, but low test weight. Straw is still being baled. Oat harvest is about complete with good yields being reported. Fruit crops continue to look good. Peaches are being harvested and some early apples are also being harvested. Sweet corn is being picked locally. Other vegetable crops are also coming in to harvest. Overall, the crops in the county are fairing ok. It is a critical time for most spring planted crops maturity because they are making grain.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Soil moisture is adequate for most locations, but rainfall has been restricted to localized weather cells. Most locations have received .25" this past week but some have received .75".

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - We received rain late in the week, and some areas received severe storms. It was generally a good week for crops. Corn, soybeans and all crops are doing well. The next two weeks are probably the peak of the peach harvest. It looks like they will have excellent quality and good size. Apples are sizing well also, but are likely to be a little less than normal yield.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Good field working conditions continued last week. 1.25 inches of rain fell throughout the week.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Spotty rains across the upper area of Dauphin County provided welcome rain, but fully developed crops require more. It is amazing what 7 to 8 foot tall corn and fully leafed out soybeans do to mask challenges across the crop fields. There have been reports of excellent third cutting yields and quality. Some 2nd cuttings of orchardgrass stands were made.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - Warm, wet conditions have made corn and soybeans grow. Second cutting hay is now being mowed; however, sporadic rain showers are keeping it from being baled. Oats are being harvested. The first sweet corn was harvested this past week. Complaints are being received about possible mildew on summer vegetables due to the excess rainfall. There are also rumors about possible potato blight affecting a field in the county.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of wheat and oats were harvested. Most of the third crop alfalfa has been harvested. The four counties Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren yields appear to be better than normal. This has been an exceptional year. Soybean plants are looking great. We could see some exceptional yields for the four county areas this growing season.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Many areas of Lancaster county missed the most recent rains. Some areas are beginning to show moisture stress as leaf curling is happening in corn.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Finally, we had a sunny week. A lot of hay was made last week. Corn seems to be growing well.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The corn and soybeans are looking good; however, in a few fields there is leaf damage from insects in the soybeans. The third cutting alfalfa is giving a good yield. The main activities for the week were harvesting grain and haymaking.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Some much needed rain feel over the weekend. The corn uncurled and regained its dark green color. Lots of hay is yet to be made. Rye came off with lots of grain and straw.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Adequate moisture this week made for continued excellent growing conditions. Harvest was again slowed by the frequent showers. Sweet corn sales at roadside stands are just about at their peak. Because of the wet season, most hay producers are about a cutting behind.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 3, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	80	82	77
Corn, dough	16	21	22
Oats, turning yellow	96	99	90
Oats, ripe	72	84	66
Oats, harvested	40	45	36
Potatoes, harvested	8	4	5
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	92	98	88
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	44	45	37
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	50	47	41
Peaches, harvested	30	31	37
Apples, harvested	10	15	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 3, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	6	21	43	30
Oats	2	0	12	64	22
Soybeans	0	4	16	51	29
Quality of hay made	2	7	22	46	23
Pasture	4	17	31	41	7
Peaches	0	0	1	44	55
Apples	0	0	17	53	30

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